

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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70

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 727

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 11303

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP VE EC

SUBJ: NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO ECUADOR

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. VENEZUELA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO ECUADOR IS CARLOS CARNEVALI, A RETIRED GENERAL PRESENTLY HEAD OF THE VENEZUELAN STATE OIL COMPANY AND A LOGTIME MILITANT MEMBER OF THE RULING ACCION DEOCRATICA PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. CARACAS PRESS OCT 30 REPORTS THAT CARLOS CARNEVALI RANGEL, A RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE VENEZUELAN ARMY AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION (CVP) SINCE MARCH 1974, WILL BE VENEZUELA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO ECUADOR. CARNEVALI, WHO WILL REMAIN IN HIS PRESENT POST UNTIL DEC 31, REPORTEDLY IS BEING REPLACED AT THE CVP BY DR JUAN CHACIN, HITHERTO HEAD OF THE GULF OIL COMPANY IN ECUADOR. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

3. CARNEVALI, BORN SEPT 2, 1919, IS A GRADUATE OF THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY ACADEMY IN 1942. HE WAS A CAREER ARMY OFFICER WHO REACHED THE RANK OF BRIGADIER GENERAL IN 1965 AND SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF BEFORE HIS RETIREMENT IN 1972. HE THEN JOINED THE CVP AND BECAME ITS HEAD
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SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT PEREZ ASSUMED OFFICE. CARNEVALI IS

MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN.

4. GENERAL CARNEVALI WAS CONSIDERED A COMPETENT OFFICER OF AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE. HIS BROTHER WAS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY AND WAS KILLED BY THE POLICE UNDER THE PEREZ HIMENEZ DICTATORSHIP. CARNEVALI HIMSELF WAS RETIRED FROM THE ARMY FROM 1954 TO 1958 BECAUSE OF HIS STRONG PRO-AD TENDENCIES, WHICH LATER BROUGHT HIM PROMOTION, HIS JOB AS HEAD OF CVP AND HIS NEW AMBASSADORIAL POST.

5. COMMENT. GENERAL CARNEVALI'S DEPARTURE FROM THE TOP CVP POST FOLLOWS PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS MADE BY A FORMER CVP DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT CARNEVALI WOULD BE REMOVED FOR OPPOSING A DECISION BY THE CVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAKING THE OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR PART OF ITS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT IN THE SOUTH LAKE MARACAIBO AREA. (OCCIDENTAL IS ACCUSED OF BRIBING GOV OFFICIALS AND THE CASE IS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE GOV AND BY THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS.)

6. IT IS TRUE THAT MANY CVP EXECUTIVES WERE OPPOSED TO THE DECISION TO DECLARE OCCIDENTAL'S OPERATION IN SOUTH LAKE MARACAIBO "COMMERCIAL". HOWEVER, CARNEVALI WAS NOT AMONG THE MANY CVP EXECUTIVES WHO ARE BITTER THAT THE CVP, ON BECOMING ONE OF THE SEVERAL OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES OF THE STATE-OWNED HOLDING COMPANY, IS BEING DENIED A PREEMINENT ROLE IN THE NATIONALIZED INDUSTRY. AS A GOOD ADECO CARNEVALI IS LOYAL TO PRESIDENT PEREZ, WAS AWARE OF WHAT WAS IN STORE FOR THE CVP, AND WAS PERHAPS INDIFFERENT TO IT, AS HIS FUNCTION AT THE CVP HAS BEEN TO CARRY OUT THE PRESIDENT'S WISHES. IT SHOULD THEREFORE BE EMPHASIZED THAT CARNEVALI IS NOT BEING OUSTED FROM THE CVP, BUT LEAVING IT UPON ITS REORGANIZATION. HE WILL THEREFORE NOT BE A DISGRUNTLED INCUMBENT BUT, RATHER, WILL HOLD A POSITION IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE TO

VENEZUELA BECAUSE OF ITS TPEC TIES WITH ECUADOR.
SHLAUDEMAM

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